

Chapter 1 Book Guide

The Legend of Decimus Croome: A Halloween Carol

Chapter 1 – The Legend Lives

Name: _____

Date: _____

Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions using complete sentences when possible.

1. Why does Tommy stand on his toes at the beginning of the chapter?

2. What strange discovery does Tommy make on the ground around him?

3. Why does Tommy believe something terrible has happened to his sister Kate?

4. What object is Decimus Croome holding when Tommy finally looks up at him?

5. Where are Tommy and Kate actually located when the frightening scene is revealed?

Literary Elements

Simile

A **simile** compares two things using the words *like* or *as*.

Example from the chapter: “A gargantuan pair of legs stretched skyward **like two gnarly old tree trunks**.”

Question

What two things are being compared in this simile?

Alliteration

Alliteration happens when nearby words begin with the same sound.

Example from the chapter: “The **murmurings and mutterings** grew even more freakish.”

Question

What beginning sound is repeated in this phrase?

Figurative Description

Example from the chapter: “The legend of Decimus Croome expanded **like a parasitic beast** feeding off the lifeblood of the town’s children.”

Question

Is this example a **simile** or a **metaphor**?

Explain your answer.

Short Response

Write **2–3 sentences** answering the question below.

Why do you think the author begins the story with such a frightening scene before revealing that the children are actually in a hardware store?

Vocabulary Development

Use context clues from the chapter to understand the meaning of the following words.

Word	Meaning
eerie	strange or frightening
grotesque	very strange or ugly
cavernous	very large and hollow
disdain	strong dislike or contempt
discernible	able to be clearly seen or recognized

Write Your Own Sentences

Choose **three vocabulary words** and write your own sentences.

Underline the vocabulary word in each sentence.

Chapter 1 Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid. Words may appear across or down.

Y	M	U	M	E	E	C	E	M	E	T	E	R	Y	E
B	E	U	X	C	F	G	U	O	D	T	C	O	N	L
C	R	O	O	M	E	F	U	T	P	M	Q	N	K	B
T	O	M	M	Y	P	W	S	K	E	L	E	T	O	N
B	M	M	G	A	O	N	V	W	V	H	V	G	D	F
A	X	E	X	N	V	G	I	X	A	M	H	U	T	U
P	V	O	H	A	L	L	O	W	E	E	N	E	G	S
H	T	I	M	B	E	R	T	O	N	D	F	X	E	K
V	S	A	S	P	I	D	E	R	S	B	U	B	Y	A
O	I	G	R	A	U	T	U	M	N	Z	T	F	G	L
Z	B	O	Y	T	O	M	B	S	T	O	N	E	S	X
Q	O	B	T	Y	M	I	M	K	A	T	E	G	R	I
T	N	S	J	A	X	A	D	A	R	K	N	E	S	S
Z	E	N	O	G	U	L	E	A	V	E	S	C	Q	R
Q	S	L	E	G	E	N	D	B	S	J	W	F	C	K

Word List

AUTUMN
AXE
BONES
CEMETERY
CROOME

DARKNESS
HALLOWEEN
KATE
LEAVES
LEGEND

SKELETON
SPIDERS
TIMBERTON
TOMBSTONES
TOMMY

Chapter 2 Book Guide

The Legend of Decimus Croome: A Halloween Carol

Name: _____

Date: _____

Reading Comprehension

Answer the questions using complete sentences when possible.

1. Why does Decimus Croome dislike Halloween more than other holidays?

2. What type of business does Decimus Croome own?

3. What problem is threatening Croome's hardware store?

4. What happens when the mechanical troll decoration pops out at Croome?

5. Why does Sam Bobbich want to leave work early the next day?

Literary Elements

Simile

A **simile** compares two things using the words *like* or *as*.

Example from the chapter: “The troll head bobbed like a drunken cobra.”

What two things are being compared in this simile?

Characterization

Characterization is the way an author reveals a character’s personality.

Based on the chapter, describe **two traits** of Decimus Croome.

1.

2.

Short Response

Why do you think the author introduces Croome as such a cranky and unpleasant character? (Write **2–3 sentences**.)

Vocabulary Development

Word	Meaning
maudlin	overly sentimental
curmudgeon	a bad-tempered person
beleaguered	experiencing great difficulties
visage	face or facial expression
approbation	approval or praise

Write Your Own Sentences

Choose **three vocabulary words** and write your own sentences. **Underline the vocabulary word** in each sentence.

Halloween Carol Chapter 2 Vocabulary Match

Match each vocabulary word with the correct definition. Write the letter of the correct definition in the blank space to the left of each word.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| _____ Wreath | a. a bad-tempered or grumpy person |
| _____ Autumn | b. a circular decoration often made of leaves or flowers and hung on doors |
| _____ approbation | c. a figure made to resemble a person used to frighten birds away from crops |
| _____ Derelict | d. the season of the year between summer and winter when leaves fall |
| _____ Spider | e. a person's face or facial expression |
| _____ Halloween | f. a small eight-legged creature that spins webs |
| _____ curmudgeon | g. abandoned or in very poor condition |
| _____ Scarecrow | h. troubled or under constant pressure |
| _____ maudlin | i. a holiday celebrated on October 31 often associated with costumes and spooky traditions |
| _____ visage | j. overly emotional or tearfully sentimental |
| _____ beleaguered | k. approval or praise |

Chapter 3 Book Guide

The Legend of Decimus Croome: A Halloween Carol

Name: _____

Date: _____

Reading Comprehension

1. How do Croome's neighbors describe the condition of his house?

2. What decoration does Croome notice hanging on his door?

3. What meal does Croome eat every night?

4. Who is Black Magic?

5. What frightening sight does Croome think he sees on the stairs?

Literary Elements

Imagery

Imagery is descriptive language that helps readers imagine sights, sounds, smells, or feelings.

Example from the chapter:

“The wreath fluttered in the breeze, making a barely perceptible scratching noise as it scraped against the old door.”

What sense is most strongly described in this sentence?

Characterization

Based on this chapter, describe **two personality traits** of Decimus Croome.

1.

2.

Short Response

Why do you think Croome begins to doubt his own sanity when he sees the scarecrow on the stairs?

Write 2–3 sentences.

Vocabulary Development

Word	Meaning
derelict	in poor condition or neglected
nostalgic	remembering the past with fondness
perceptible	able to be noticed
progenitors	ancestors or earlier family members
apparition	a ghostly or unusual appearance

Write Your Own Sentences

Choose **three vocabulary words** and write your own sentences.

Remember to **underline the vocabulary word** in each sentence.

Chapter 3 Word Search

Find the words hidden in the puzzle. Words may appear across, down, or diagonally.

K	J	L	G	Z	F	V	T	J	R	P	J	P	F	S
L	Z	A	W	A	P	P	A	R	I	T	I	O	N	C
B	K	Y	I	I	D	E	W	B	C	A	N	E	I	A
H	E	U	V	G	J	G	N	I	W	S	L	G	D	R
A	A	H	J	C	P	F	G	E	B	B	C	D	E	E
L	U	O	U	S	F	L	V	Z	I	R	R	L	R	C
L	T	T	L	R	A	F	W	T	M	X	O	Y	E	R
O	U	N	A	T	L	F	P	S	Z	S	O	F	L	O
W	M	X	S	H	L	E	S	S	P	E	M	F	I	W
E	N	O	Q	I	C	E	V	Z	P	W	E	G	C	V
E	N	Q	L	R	N	A	J	I	S	I	E	X	T	K
N	J	Z	E	K	I	Y	P	C	I	U	D	R	Y	X
J	O	P	R	R	D	Y	H	D	J	I	L	E	Z	Q
G	R	A	N	D	F	A	T	H	E	R	T	W	R	L
T	D	X	P	L	W	K	Y	E	W	R	E	A	T	H

Word List

APPARITION
AUTUMN
CROOME
DARKNESS

DERELICT
GRANDFATHER
HALLOWEEN
NOSTALGIC

PERCEPTIBLE
SCARECROW
SPIDER
WREATH

Chapter 4 Book Guide

The Legend of Decimus Croome: A Halloween Carol

Reading Comprehension

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. Why does Croome initially believe that the strange events in his bedroom might be caused by something ordinary?

2. What object reminds Croome of his late wife Patricia before the ghost appears?

3. How does Croome react when Patricia's spirit first appears?

4. What important message does Patricia give Croome about life and the choices people make?

5. What warning does Patricia give Croome before she disappears?

Story Focus Activity

Comparing Halloween Carol to A Christmas Carol

Charles Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol*, a famous story about a bitter man named Ebenezer Scrooge who is visited by spirits.

This chapter of *Halloween Carol* borrows some ideas from Dickens. Fill in the chart by comparing the two stories.

Story Element	Halloween Carol (Croome)	A Christmas Carol (Scrooge)
Main Character Personality		
First Supernatural Visitor		
Message from the Visitor		
Setting Differences		

Reflection Question

Why do you think the author chose to model this story after *A Christmas Carol*?

Character Insight Activity

Understanding Decimus Croome

In this chapter we see a different side of Croome. Use the chart below to explore how his character is revealed.

What Croome Says or Does	What It Reveals About Him
He keeps a picture of Patricia by his bed.	
He speaks to Patricia with love and sadness.	
He listens carefully to Patricia’s warning.	

Vocabulary Development

Write a sentence using each word from the chapter. Underline the vocabulary word in your sentence.

1. apparition
2. clairvoyant
3. corporeal

Chapter 5 Book Guide

The Legend of Decimus Croome: A Halloween Carol

Active Reading: Ask Questions While You Read

Good readers ask questions as they read. Write one question you had while reading this chapter.

Your question might be about:

- the spirit Pepo
- Croome's past
- what the spirits want from Croome
- something confusing or mysterious

My Question:

Reading Comprehension

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. What unusual things does Croome notice when he wakes up in his bedroom?

2. What object in the room first alerts Croome that he may not be alone?

3. What mistake does Croome make with Black Magic?

4. What surprising things do we learn about the strange spirit in this chapter?

5. What does the Spirit of Halloween Past say it will show Croome?

Visual Activity

Identify the Spirit

In *A Christmas Carol*, different spirits represent different times in Scrooge's life.

In this chapter, Croome meets the **Spirit of Halloween Past**. Fill in the chart to describe the spirit.

Spirit Name	Appearance	Personality	What the Spirit Wants to Show Croome
Spirit of Halloween Past (Pepo)	_____	_____	_____

Make a Prediction

Good readers predict what might happen next. The Spirit of Halloween Past says Croome will visit **memories from his past**. What do you think Croome might see?

Possible ideas:

- something from his childhood, a memory with Patricia, something involving his daughter

My Prediction

Literary Element

Tone and Mood

The **tone** of this chapter changes several times. Circle the words that best describe the mood of different moments in the chapter.

spooky
funny

confusing
mysterious

tense
frightening

Choose a moment from the chapter and explain the mood.

Chapter 6 Book Guide

The Legend of Decimus Croome: A Halloween Carol

Reading Comprehension

1. What kinds of traditions did Croome's family enjoy?

2. Why might these memories later become painful for Croome?

3. How does this chapter show the theme of memory?

Literary Elements

Flashback -A flashback is when a story shows events that happened earlier in a character's life. In this chapter, the Spirit of Halloween Past shows Croome:

- his childhood school
- the forest he explored
- his father's hardware store
- his family preparing for Halloween

Question

How does seeing these memories begin to change Croome's thinking?

Author's Craft: Autumn Visualization

Throughout the story, the author uses **fall imagery** to create a strong Halloween atmosphere.

Look for examples of **autumn descriptions** such as:

- leaves
- cool breezes
- forests
- Halloween decorations
- trick-or-treating

Find Two Examples from the Chapter

Example 1:

Example 2:

Why do you think the author uses so many autumn details?

Active Reading

Good readers **ask questions and make predictions** while reading.

Ask a Question

What is one question you have about Croome's past or what the spirit might show next?

Make a Prediction

What do you think the Spirit of Halloween Past will show Croome next?

Halloween Carol – Chapter 6 Word Search

Find the Chapter 6 words hidden in the puzzle below. Words may appear horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

M	P	D	M	X	H	A	R	D	W	A	R	E	N	V	G
Y	B	V	T	Z	C	V	R	W	X	A	Y	Z	W	X	F
B	U	C	R	V	J	J	Z	M	E	P	I	W	W	V	Q
S	M	R	A	E	S	O	Y	E	J	C	H	W	F	Z	X
L	J	D	A	N	J	O	K	M	Y	O	D	P	S	N	J
J	Q	K	E	B	D	I	M	O	W	S	C	H	O	O	L
X	I	M	F	I	W	Y	R	R	N	T	G	E	G	F	V
Y	A	B	F	E	Q	X	N	Y	V	U	C	F	P	O	K
D	P	K	V	S	D	W	L	R	E	M	H	H	N	R	L
W	B	R	E	E	Z	E	E	D	X	E	B	M	R	E	X
Z	Z	I	B	L	I	P	S	D	F	P	U	P	L	S	H
X	J	X	U	Z	E	V	L	F	B	T	S	F	U	T	V
B	Z	Y	Z	J	H	A	P	C	U	Z	R	Q	I	Q	F
L	C	V	Y	D	Y	W	F	A	Q	J	Y	K	D	X	H
T	T	H	A	L	L	O	W	E	E	N	P	A	S	T	X
R	S	T	R	I	C	K	T	F	N	H	S	M	D	V	P

Word List

AUTUMN
BREEZE
CANDY
COSTUME

FOREST
HALLOWEEN
HARDWARE
LEAF

MEMORY
PAST
SCHOOL
TRICK

🎃 Chapter 7 Book Guide

The Legend of Decimus Croome: A Halloween Carol

Reading Comprehension

1. Who does Croome see when the Spirit first takes him to the next memory?

2. What costume is Croome wearing when he first meets Patricia?

3. Why did Croome's friends tell him to wear the knight costume to the party?

4. Where does Croome later propose to Patricia?

5. What important event happens in the final memory shown in this chapter?

Characters

Croome and Patricia

In this chapter, we see Croome and Patricia at **three different moments in their lives**:

- when they first meet
- when Croome proposes marriage
- when their daughter is born

Question

How does Croome feel while watching these moments from his past?

Halloween Carol – Chapter 7 Activity: Croome’s Memory Timeline

In Chapter 7, the Spirit of Halloween Past shows Croome several happy memories with Patricia. Use the chart below to track what happens in each memory and what Croome might be feeling while watching these moments from his past.

Memory Scene	What Happens in the Scene?	Croome’s Feelings
First Meeting with Patricia (Halloween Party)		
Marriage Proposal at the Restaurant		
Birth of Their Daughter Eve		

Reflection Question

Why do you think the Spirit of Halloween Past shows Croome some of the happiest moments of his life? What might Croome learn from remembering these events?

🍂 Chapter 8 Book Guide

The Legend of Decimus Croome: A Halloween Carol



Reading Comprehension

1. What serious condition is Patricia suffering from in the first scene of this chapter?

2. Why does Patricia want to remain at home instead of going back to the hospital?

3. How does Decimus react after Patricia dies?

4. Why does Decimus forbid Eve from going trick-or-treating?

5. What does Decimus insist Eve give out to trick-or-treaters instead of candy?



Character Insight

In this chapter we see **two very different versions of Croome**:

Younger Croome

Loving husband
Devoted to Patricia
Full of joy

Older Croome

Bitter and withdrawn father
Pushes Eve away
Angry and cynical

Question

What tragic event causes Croome to change so dramatically?

Why do you think Croome begins to hate Halloween after Patricia dies?



Vocabulary

Match each word with the correct meaning based on how it is used in the chapter. Write the letter of the correct definition in the space to the left of the corresponding vocabulary word.

_____	bereavement	A. Acting violently and out of control
_____	inconsolable	B. Overwhelmed with grief after a loss
_____	rampage	C. Completely unable to be comforted
_____	eclipsed	D. Hidden or overshadowed by something else
_____	comatose	E. Almost lifeless or emotionally numb



Active Reading

Ask a Question

What question do you have about Croome's relationship with his daughter Eve?

Make a Prediction

How do you think Croome might change after seeing these painful memories?

The Best Times vs the Worst Times – This is a line from *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens.

The Best of Times (Chapter 7) The Worst of Times (Chapter 8)

Croome meets Patricia	Patricia becomes ill
Croome proposes	Patricia dies
Eve is born	Croome destroys Halloween decorations

What event do you think had the biggest impact on Croome's personality? How did it change him?

Chapter 9 Book Guide

The Legend of Decimus Croome: A Halloween Carol

Comprehension Questions

Answer the questions using complete sentences.

1. Why does Croome get out of bed and go down to the kitchen during the night?

2. What surprising things can the Ghost (or Witch) of Halloween Present do that confuse or amuse Croome?

3. What important things does Croome learn when he watches the Bobbich family in the hardware store?

Character Spotlight – The Witch (Ghost of Halloween Present)

The spirit Croome meets in this chapter is very different from the Ghost of Halloween Past. She is playful, sarcastic, and constantly changing her appearance.

Directions:

List three things that make the Witch of Halloween Present an unusual or memorable character.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Follow-Up Question:

Why do you think the author made this spirit funny and unpredictable instead of serious?

Use clues from the chapter to determine what each word means.

Word	What You Think It Means
solace	_____
stygian	_____
glissading	_____
spectral	_____
ruminations	_____

Use Two Words in Your Own Sentences

(Underline the vocabulary word in your sentence.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Imagery & Humor in the Chapter

This chapter contains many funny or imaginative moments involving the Witch and Croome.

Find one example of humor or absurd action in the chapter and explain why it is funny.

Example moments might include:

- the magic cattle prod
- the flying carpet crash in the sink
- the witch pretending to melt

Your example:

Why it is funny or surprising:

Theme Connection – The Magic of Halloween

When Croome watches the Bobbich family, he begins to see Halloween in a different way.

Write one sentence explaining what Tommy’s happiness teaches Croome about Halloween.

Optional Mini-Activity: Costume Clue Game

In the chapter, Tommy guesses his costume piece-by-piece before realizing he will be **Popeye**.

Create your own Halloween costume clues.

List three clues for a costume without naming the character.

Clue 1: _____

Clue 2: _____

Clue 3: _____

Character: _____

Chapter 10 Book Guide

The Legend of Decimus Croome: A Halloween Carol

Comprehension

Answer in complete sentences.

1. What lesson does the Ghost of Halloween Present try to teach Croome by showing him different Halloween celebrations?

2. How do the families in the rich neighborhood and the poor neighborhood both show the spirit of Halloween?

3. What hurts Croome most when he watches the party at Eve's house?

Character Focus: The Ghost of Halloween Present

This spirit is playful and funny at times, but also wise and serious when teaching Croome important lessons.

Fill in the chart.

What the Spirit Does	What It Shows About Her Character
Changes costumes and plays jokes	
Shows Croome many different neighborhoods	
Brings Croome to his daughter's party	
Reveals Apathy and Greed at the end	

Follow-Up

Why do you think this spirit uses humor before becoming more serious near the end of the chapter?

Active Reading: Questions and Predictions

Ask a Question

What is one question you now have after reading about **Apathy** and **Greed**?

Make a Prediction

What do you think will happen next after the witch disappears and the two creatures rush toward Croome?

Author's Craft: Contrast

In this chapter, the author shows Croome many **different Halloween settings**:

- a family home
- a rural party
- a wealthy neighborhood
- a poorer neighborhood
- Eve's party

Why does the author show Croome so many different places instead of only one?

How does this help Croome better understand Halloween?

Fun Activity: Halloween Presence Snapshot

Complete the chart below to show what Croome learns in each place the spirit takes him.

Place Visited	What Croome Sees	What Croome Learns
Home of the frightened boys	_____	_____
Rural Halloween party	_____	_____
Wealthy neighborhood	_____	_____
Poor neighborhood	_____	_____
Eve's Halloween party	_____	_____

Vocabulary

Match each word to its definition by placing the correct letter from the right-hand column next to the appropriate word in the left-hand column.

Words	Meanings
_____ apprehension	a. great wealth or luxury
_____ opulence	b. not caring very much
_____ downtrodden	c. a relationship in which both sides benefit
_____ symbiotic	d. fear or worry about what may happen
_____ apathy	e. always wanting more for yourself
_____ greed	f. poor, struggling, or treated unfairly

Use Two Words in Your Own Sentences

Underline the vocabulary word in each sentence.

1. _____

2. _____

Chapter 11 Book Guide

The Legend of Decimus Croome: A Halloween Carol

Comprehension

1. What does Croome first notice about the Spirit of Halloween Future that makes it more frightening than the earlier spirits?

-
2. What shocks Croome when he sees the future of Croome's Hardware and later visits the Bobbich home?

-
3. What final lesson does Croome begin to understand when he studies the single autumn leaf in the cemetery?
-

Character Focus: Croome Faces Himself

In this chapter, Croome does not argue as much as he did before. Instead, he begins to accept responsibility for the life he has created.

Fill in the chart.

What Croome Sees or Says	What It Reveals About Him
He welcomes the Spirit and says he is ready to learn.	_____
He begs Sam Bobbich for forgiveness, even though Sam cannot hear him.	_____
He is horrified by his own plain gravestone.	_____
He notices that even Black Magic does not mourn him.	_____

Follow-Up

How is Croome different in this chapter from the man we saw at the beginning of the book?

Active Reading: Question and Prediction

Ask a Question

What is one question you still have after reading this chapter?

Make a Prediction

Do you think Croome will truly change after seeing this future? Why or why not?

Author's Craft: Writing Style

This chapter uses **strong descriptive writing** to create mood.

Look at these kinds of images from the chapter:

- the three-layered spirit
- the empty hardware store
- the plain gravestone
- the single autumn leaf

Questions

What mood does the author create in this chapter?

Find one description you thought was especially powerful or memorable.

Why do you think it stands out?

Fun Activity: Past, Present, Future Chart

Complete the chart to show what each spirit has taught Croome so far.

Spirit	What the Spirit Shows Croome	Main Lesson Croome Learns
Halloween Past	_____	_____
Halloween Present	_____	_____
Halloween Future	_____	_____

Quick Reflection

Which spirit seems the most effective so far, and why?

Vocabulary

Match each word to its meaning.

Words

1. cantankerous
2. apparition
3. epitaph
4. austerity
5. melancholy
6. squandered

Meanings

- a. a feeling of deep sadness
- b. a ghostly figure or appearance
- c. a short message written on a gravestone
- d. harsh seriousness or severe self-denial
- e. wasted or used carelessly
- f. bad-tempered and quarrelsome

Use Two Words in Your Own Sentences

Underline the vocabulary word in each sentence.

1. _____
2. _____

Chapter 11 Word Search – The Spirit of Halloween Future

Find the vocabulary and Halloween words hidden in the puzzle. Words may appear across, down, or diagonally.

C	C	F	D	P	Y	H	J	C	I	E	N	F	F	L
C	A	N	T	A	N	K	E	R	O	U	S	C	R	L
V	R	F	W	M	E	L	A	N	C	H	O	L	Y	E
P	H	A	L	L	O	W	E	E	N	N	G	I	Y	A
S	S	Q	U	X	P	G	O	A	O	Y	H	V	O	F
C	B	X	L	B	D	C	B	I	T	N	O	Z	V	M
D	L	W	E	M	Y	H	T	I	D	T	S	W	N	V
N	D	K	R	L	V	I	R	Q	O	P	T	M	I	P
W	A	D	V	R	R	E	Y	D	U	V	U	Q	V	U
Y	Q	H	R	A	T	R	J	S	B	T	V	P	P	J
P	H	J	P	S	E	E	G	P	U	M	P	K	I	N
O	Q	P	U	T	P	F	T	A	X	Q	P	P	P	T
B	A	A	R	N	G	B	N	L	L	Q	I	T	N	B
I	G	S	Q	U	A	N	D	E	R	E	D	I	Y	T
E	P	I	T	A	P	H	Y	T	J	A	H	Y	O	G

- Cantankerous
Apparition
Epitaph
- Austerity
Melancholy
Squandered
- Halloween
Pumpkin
Autumn
- Ghost
Leaf

Chapter 12 Book Guide

The Legend of Decimus Croome: A Halloween Carol

Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What object does Croome find on the floor after the Spirit disappears, and what does it remind him of?

2. Describe two things Croome does that show he is excited about Halloween again.

3. How does Croome treat Sam Bobbich differently in this chapter compared to earlier in the story?

Mood and Tone Shift

Earlier chapters of the story have a gloomy or sorrowful tone. In Chapter 12 the tone becomes more joyful.

Find one moment that shows the mood of the story changing.

Example from the chapter: Croome laughing loudly at the window.

Write another example from the chapter:

How does this moment change the overall mood of the story?

Character Change

Croome is becoming a very different person.

List **two actions** Croome takes in this chapter that show he has changed.

1. _____

2. _____

Autumn Imagery

The author uses autumn scenes to create a vivid picture of the season.

Find a description in the chapter that helps you picture autumn. Write the phrase or sentence here:

What image does it create in your mind?

Vocabulary in Context

Choose **two words** from the list and write your own sentence using each one.

Be sure to **underline the vocabulary word** in your sentence.

bewildered, frolicking, cauldron, conspiratorial,, abundance

1. _____

2. _____

Chapter 12 Word Search – A Very Croomey Halloween

Find the vocabulary and Halloween words hidden in the puzzle. Words may appear across, down, or diagonally.

A	B	U	N	D	A	N	C	E	M	M	P	V	F	S
E	F	N	W	S	L	T	H	A	R	I	I	Z	S	F
C	O	N	S	P	I	R	A	T	O	R	I	A	L	Z
D	Y	V	K	H	G	M	O	N	S	T	E	R	N	S
P	X	R	V	L	U	B	Q	U	A	U	T	U	M	N
M	B	E	W	I	L	D	E	R	E	D	C	M	J	R
H	Q	P	T	N	J	Y	S	D	U	Y	T	C	O	C
F	Q	I	F	L	D	L	S	B	J	Q	X	C	B	M
B	J	A	C	K	O	L	A	N	T	E	R	N	W	N
U	G	D	H	B	M	C	A	U	L	D	R	O	N	Y
R	M	F	R	O	L	I	C	K	I	N	G	X	D	N
P	U	M	P	K	I	N	H	W	L	N	I	N	J	T
V	O	W	A	N	F	O	P	A	I	N	A	F	T	Z
R	U	K	K	S	S	M	J	Y	L	C	K	S	L	N
I	W	G	E	D	K	K	Y	P	B	E	U	B	V	W

Bewildered

Abundance

Cauldron

Conspiratorial

Frolicking

Pumpkin

Candy

Mask

Monster

Autumn

Jackolantern

Chapter 13 Book Guide

The Legend of Decimus Croome: A Halloween Carol

Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Why does Croome go to Eve's Halloween party wearing a monster mask?

2. How does Eve react when she realizes the monster at the party is her father?

3. What promise does Croome make to his grandson Kellen?

Character Insight – Black Magic

Throughout the story, Croome's cat **Black Magic** appears at important moments. What role do you think Black Magic plays in the story? Is the cat simply Croome's pet, or does the cat symbolize something more about Croome's life and transformation?

Write a short paragraph explaining your thoughts.

Mood and Theme

At the beginning of the story, Croome is lonely, bitter, and unhappy.

By the end of Chapter 13, the mood of the story has completely changed.

Describe **two ways the tone of the story becomes happier or more hopeful**.

1. _____

2. _____

Vocabulary Development

Write your own sentence using **three** of the vocabulary words below. Be sure to **underline the vocabulary word** in your sentence.

festooned
revelers
attrition

macabre
herculean
flamboyant

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



Creative Thinking Activity

Could This Story Be a Halloween Movie?

Do you think *The Legend of Decimus Croome: A Halloween Carol* would make a good Halloween movie?

Explain your opinion. You might consider:

- Which scenes would be exciting or funny on screen
- Which characters would be fun to watch
- What type of actors might play the roles

Optional Creative Challenge

Imagine you are helping turn this book into a movie. Choose **one** of the activities below:

1. **Write a short pitch** explaining why the story would make a great Halloween movie.
2. **Create a movie poster** for the film.
3. **Send your idea** to a movie producer, actor, or director you admire and tell them why they should make this story into a film.